

# THE CHATTANOOGA NEWS

## British on Flanders Front Now Within Six Miles of Lille

### ADVANCE BEHIND HEAVY BARRAGE

Americans Make Smashing Attack in Champagne and Reach Somme-Py-Antigny Road.

### HUNS FIGHT FIERCELY

Yankee Shells Blast German Defenses on Mont Blanc Into Bits.

With the American Army in France, Oct. 4.—(8 p.m.)—Americans take part in big attack in Champagne sector. Advance considerable distance.

With the American Army in France, Oct. 3.—(8 p.m.)—American troops went into action this morning on the Champagne front. A report from the French army states that they had advanced considerably by noon and had taken Blanc Mont and Medeah farm.

The capture of Blanc Mont and Medeah farm was announced in last night's French official statement. It was not made known, however, that American forces had executed the capture. The Americans here are evidently co-operating with Gen. Gouraud's army in the Champagne, pushing the attack on the left. Blanc Mont is more than three miles northwest of Somme-Py, while the captured farm lies just to the east.

Of Tactical Importance. French forces in the Champagne have captured Orville and Bement, Chateau, northwest of Somme-Py. Mont Blanc, a position of considerable tactical importance, also has been taken from the Germans.

Tanks Smash Forward. The American tanks, after smashing their way through the German lines, wheeled about and repeated the operation with deadly results. The enemy losses were extremely heavy. In one German company, nine men were killed and thirty were wounded out of seventy. In another company, ten were killed and forty wounded out of eighty.

Flyers Successful. With the American forces Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 3.—(Abilville, France).—Haydenville and Marec were bombed.

In twelve days' flying on this front, thirty-four successful missions have been undertaken by the American aviators.

(By Henry G. Wales). With the American Army in Champagne Sector, Oct. 3.—(Night).—Driving forward behind a rolling barrage, American troops delivered a smashing attack in the first rush, the attack, storming the formidable German defensive work on Mont Blanc and capturing Medeah farm.

The Americans advanced a considerable distance along the main Somme-Py-Antigny road and at last reports were maintaining steady progress. (Somme-Py is twenty-three miles east of Rheims. Antigny is sixteen miles north of Somme-Py. Medeah farm is three miles north of Somme-Py and Mont Blanc is nearby.)

Co-operate With Gouraud. The Americans co-operated with Gen. Gouraud's army west of the Argonne forest, and their first big attack in this zone was entirely successful. All of the objectives were carried by the Americans in the first rush.

The assault, which centered astride the highway running due north from Somme-Py, was through sparse woods. At the same time strong pressure was directed westward along the Somme-Py-Antigny road, near which Mont Blanc is located on the top of a knoll amidst heavy woods.

Flank Machine Guns. The first line would move forward, flanking German machine gun nests and strong points, while the second and third lines followed, "mopping up." The thick woods hindered complete co-operation by the airplanes, but in spite of these obstacles the attack made a new record in regulating the artillery fire. The gunners kept a constant wave of bursting shells in front of the advancing ranks.

German batteries west of Suippes laid down an enfilading fire which battered the Americans until our long-range heavies began to roar. The German gun positions were positively drenched with gas.

As the attack progressed it swerved in a northwesterly direction, menacing the German positions north of Rheims. Following the drive which preceded the infantry advance, the Americans put out a thick smoke screen which cloaked their movements.

Prisoners Captured. A number of prisoners were captured, but they had not been counted at the time this dispatch was written. Several batteries of German field guns and numerous machine guns were included among the booty.

Some of the German machine gunners put up stout resistance, but the Americans with fixed bayonets swarmed over the German machine gun nests, sweeping them clear of bores with the cold steel.

### IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR SOLDIERS

Paris, Oct. 4.—A campaign has been started by the stars and stripes, the official publication of the American expeditionary forces, to learn from the soldiers themselves the ideal Christmas present.

Regulations limit the size of packages to six inches. It is the intention of the publication to give this as wide a publicity in the United States as possible, in order to prevent useless shipment of packages.

### RUIN AND DESOLATION IN WAKE OF GERMANS

YANKES VISIT "KAISER BILL'S CASTLE."

Boys Sleep in Spooky, Rat-Ridden Nooks and Beside Cemeteries Defaced by War.

(By Bert Ford). With the American Troops on the British Front, Night, Oct. 3.—(I. N. S.)—As New York state troops, that are fighting with the British Fourth army on the Cambrai-St. Quentin front, moved up through the war-ridden country to the front line, they gazed with much interest on a red brick house, known as "kaiser bill's castle."

It stands in a patch of woods now thinned by artillery fire and was built by the Germans for a safe observation shelter for the kaiser when he visited the Somme front. At that time it was behind the German lines; now it is far behind the British front.

The New York troops hiked through a scared and uncanny country on their way to the memorable battle for the Hindenburg line. They tramped for miles over the old Somme battlefield and through a seemingly unending desert of war.

There is nothing but ruin everywhere. The men bivouacked in abandoned German trenches, dugouts, cellars and demolished villages. Amidst this world of fury and death, they ate, slept, joked, played cards and rolled dice.

Utter Desolation. Words fail to give more than the slightest conception of the utter desolation and woe amidst which the men from New York City, Brooklyn, and up-state lived for days. The picture can never be effaced from the human mind.

One can motor for hours and see nothing but a blighted landscape torn by mines and shells, and resembling in many places a storm-tossed ocean. There are gaunt, blackened remnants of trees, and the jagged ruins of churches, factories and dwellings, all reduced to heaps of splintered wood and powdered brick and mortar.

Weird Environments. Dark days and moonlit nights add varying degrees of weirdness to the environment which automatically and unconsciously affect the thoughts and emotions.

The Americans slept in spooky, rat-ridden nooks, and beside ancient cemeteries defaced and upheaved by the torments of modern war.

They tramped over roads pitted by mines and shells and through a landscape patched thick with wooden crosses marking the graves of hundreds of men who fell as the tide of battle ebbed and flowed for four years.

Clumsy Crosses. There were clumsy crosses in the German cemeteries which adjoined the burial grounds for the French and British.

As the men approached the firing line, they passed through battle-wrecked buildings which the British had but recently taken in bloody hand-to-hand fighting.

The Americans saw stacks of captured German equipment along the roadside. There were helmets, rifles, overcoats, knapsacks, ammunition, old boots, harness and so on, which the Germans had harvested in the German dugouts.

Also they saw many German graves skirting the roads. Each grave had a musket stuck in it, bayonet fixed with a helmet on the butt. Some of the German crosses bore inscriptions, proclaiming the buried man as a hero, and setting forth his deeds. In case of no inscriptions were found, such as a line of empty shell-jackets around the mound.

The Americans took a deep interest in the elaborate system of German dugouts. Often they were sixty feet deep and reached to the advanced positions.

### HAIG'S TROOPS PLUNGING AHEAD

No Let-Up in Strong Allied Pressure North of St. Quentin.

### ONLY POLA NOW REMAINS

Pressure on West Front escalates General Sacrifices on Part of Huns.

U. S. U-BOAT CHASERS WIN TWO VICTORIES. Rome, Oct. 4.—American submarine chasers destroyed two enemy submarines yesterday during the bombardment of Durazzo. It was officially announced today.

Retiring in Disorder. London, Oct. 4.—(1:30 p.m.)—Austro-Hungarian forces in Albania are retiring in considerable disorder before the advancing Italians. The Austro-Hungarian forces are blowing up their depots.

(Associated Press.) Northeast of St. Quentin the British today are reported as fighting in the open country beyond the Hindenburg line after having pushed ahead five or six miles since Monday. From Lens northward and from Rheims eastward to the Argonne the allies continue to bend back the German flanks in smashing attacks.

The breach driven through the German defenses south of Beaurivore is on a front of five miles. To the north, the British are plunging forward east-southeast from Le Catelet, while on the south the French are attacking successfully between Sequehart and Les Dines. The German resistance is bitter, but there has been no let-up in the strong allied pressure.

In the fighting in this area Thursday Field Marshal Haig's men captured 4,000 prisoners.

With the British in the open country northeast of St. Quentin and the cavalry and tanks pouring through the breach the German positions about Cambrai and Laon will become most precarious.

Through the opening in the line Marshal Foch would be able to throw troops to take both Cambrai and Laon in the rear.

West of Lille the British continue to press the Germans eastward while extending their line south of Lens to Mericourt, where a good advance also has been made.

Between Lens and Armentieres the British have moved forward an average of more than three miles on a twenty-mile front and east of the Bois Grenier are within six miles of the outer walls of the fortress of Lille.

Meanwhile, the British and Belgians in Flanders are widening the salient east of Ypres, which threatens the German positions on the coast and the network of railroads west of Ghent.

There are no indications that the Germans have halted their retirement in the Lille salient. The enemy is still several miles west of the Deule canal, which runs from north of Armentieres through Lille to north of Lens, and which probably will form part of the German defense system before Lille. It is not probable the Germans will give up Lille without heavy fighting.

German armies which have been holding the front along the sector from Lens to Armentieres are in retreat and, with the British in close pursuit, are hurriedly abandoning the region south of the Lys river, where they were in danger of envelopment.

This retreat seems to have uncovered the important city of Lille and will probably make imperative a withdrawal all the way down the line in front of Arras. North of the wedges driven into the German lines by the Anglo-German drive there are no indications of a retirement as yet, although military critics believe that the Germans' hold on Ostend will be short-lived, now that Roulers is virtually in the hands of the allies.

Near Rheims, Gen. Berthelot's army has made new progress and the time seems not far distant when the cathedral city will be freed from German artillery fire for the first time since 1914. This advance by the French has a very close relation to that of the British around St. Quentin as well as on operations further east in Champagne. There are some military experts who believe that this drive is of greater strategic value than any other now going on in France.

Gen. Gouraud's army in Champagne has at last cleared the western gate of Grand-Pre gap, which runs north of the Argonne forest. Challenge has been taken and the Germans west of that village have been forced to give more ground.

### BRITISH TORPEDO BOAT SUNK IN COLLISION

London, Oct. 4.—A British torpedo boat has been sunk in a collision with a merchant vessel, the admiralcy announced. Fifty-three men are missing.

### WORKING AROUND HUN POSITIONS

Americans in Argonne Forest Making Slow but Steady Progress.

Retreating Enemy Leaves Behind Internal Machines and Man-Traps in Trenches.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 3.—(Night).—American troops in the Argonne forest are consistently advancing night and day, but progress is necessarily slow, owing to the difficult terrain.

Additional German machine gun nests, strong points, and trench systems are captured every day. While the advance often measures but a few yards, it is always maintained and never given up.

The Americans are making their way steadily northward through dense woods and thickets, which favor the boches' rear guard defenses.

The Americans are not hurrying, but are using acrobats to work around the German positions and outflanking them.

Reduce Machine Gun Nests. Thus the machine gun nests are being reduced one by one. Two more German field guns that had been cleverly concealed, and a dozen heavy machine guns were captured by yesterday's advance.

In some instances, American engineers fought alongside of the doughboys when things got hot. The engineers threw down picks and shovels and grabbed rifles. Or in the hand carried up machine guns to the front and aided the ammunition-bearers. When counter attacks developed, the Americans dug in.

Everywhere shrapnel-proof shelters have now been established.

Register Accurately. American officers are registering accurately the newly employed Krupp positions, breaking up the harassing fire which has been interfering with earlier operations.

The enemy's batteries east of the Meuse have now been entirely neutralized by the efficient fire of our guns. Whenever the Germans open artillery fire, the American gunners drench the German batteries with gas.

Mines Removed. Engineers have removed more than 100 mines planted by the Germans at crossroads in the Argonne. As the engineers have also constructed roads across the captured ground and rebuilt the highways inside the old German lines.

Build Bridges. Bridges have been placed across streams and barbed wire entanglements have been removed. New narrow gauge railways have been connected up with the German systems. The Germans used the same gauge as the Americans, so the captured rolling stock is good on our miniature lines.

The booty included a number of locomotives.

Colonel Shows Gallantry. Lieut.-Col. A. Cummins, of Cour d'Alene, Idaho, American Doughboys in their advanced positions between Genes and Exermont (north of Apremont), bringing them cigarettes at the time that the enemy was heavily shelling the positions.

Col. Cummins showed great gallantry under fire by personally demonstrating to the doughboys the best way to dig dugouts and helping them to better their positions.

### AMBUSH ON U. S. PLANES FAILS

Proves Sad Failure for German Airmen on Verdun Front.

### FOUR BOCHE FOKKERS TOLL

Forty-One Enemy Balloons Shot Down by American Pursuit Group of Airmen.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 4.—Forty-one enemy balloons have been shot down by one of the American pursuit groups of airmen since Sept. 12.

An attempt by the Germans to "ambush" several of our planes northwest of Verdun this evening proved a complete failure, and American airmen shot down four boche fockers and two enemy balloons.

The Germans sent up three dummy balloons and planted seven fockers to lie in wait for the expected American attack on them. The American airmen outguessed the Germans, however, and sent three planes to attack the balloons, but brought up twenty-four other airplanes two minutes later.

The plan worked perfectly. The seven fockers pounced on the first three American planes. Immediately, however, the twenty-four other American airplanes descended on the boches, bringing down four of the fockers in flames. The shooting down of these planes has been officially confirmed.

The American airmen then shot down two genuine German balloons, Eddie Hickenbacker, the latest American ace, shot down one of the German fockers, while Lieut. Coolidge was credited with bringing down a balloon and a plane.

### HOLSTON CONFERENCE AT JOHNSON CITY POSTPONED

Will Not Be Held on Account Health Authorities Prohibiting Assemblages.

Knoxville, Oct. 4.—Annual sessions of the Holston conference, M. E. church, south, embracing portions of Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee, will not be held at Johnson City Oct. 15, as planned, owing to the fact that the board of health of Johnson City has forbidden any public assemblages there because of an epidemic of influenza. This has necessitated a postponement of the conference sessions to Oct. 16-21, inclusive, and a change of the meeting place to Knoxville. This announcement is made by Bishop Collins Denny, who will preside over the conference.

### BISHOP OF ENGLAND TO DELIVER ADDRESS

Representative of Church of England Stands Back of Lloyd George.

Knoxville, Oct. 4.—(Special).—A representative of the Church of England, Dr. Charles Gore, bishop of Oxford, England, and a member of the British house of lords, accompanied by Bishop Thos. F. Gailor, of the Episcopal diocese of Tennessee, and Rev. J. L. Vance, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Nashville, arrived in Knoxville Friday morning for addresses Friday night at a patriotic mass meeting at St. Paul's theater. "The Moral Aims of the War" is the subject on which they will speak. Bishop Gore also addressed a meeting of the city's leading ministers and business men Friday afternoon at the Y. M. C. A.

Bishop Gore stands back of the position recently taken by Premier Lloyd George of England, and President Wilson, that the war must be won—its aims attained—and a league of nations formed to enforce peace hereafter.

Knoxville is one of only three southern cities to be honored by Bishop Gore's visit. In fact, he only visits twenty-five cities in America. He will go to Atlanta Saturday, and will spend next Tuesday and Wednesday in Birmingham. From that city he swings south to Washington, Chicago, Cleveland, and Oberlin, O., coming from the latter named city to Knoxville. Among the other cities in which he will speak are Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, and other places.

### TURKS THREATEN KAISER

Instead of Vice Versa, Say Diplomats. London, Oct. 4.—Diplomats say, instead of Germany threatening Turkey, as was reported a fortnight ago when Turkey was threatening Germany, Turkey is now threatening Germany. This has resulted in an effort by Germany to get some troops to Turkey, but the size of the force to be sent or what success has been made in transporting it, are not known.

Reports that the central powers have sent a large force to Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, are discredited on all sides.

A diplomat familiar with Turkey, points out that it will take the greatest pressure on Enver Pasha, a strong pro-German, to make peace proposals. Reports that Turkey took peace with Germany the question of Turkey's readiness to make peace are characterized as "intelligent anticipation" and evidently emanated from the demands Turkey made for military help.

Failure to get this help help Germany, it seems, will not be able to give, and further Teuton reverses on the western front are sure to bring proposals from Turkey. This is the belief in the best informed circles. On the other hand, it is pointed out that situations may be developing in Turkey of which little or nothing is known here, that might result in proposals coming at any time.

### GEN. PERSHING REPORTS TAKING OF BLANC MONT

Washington, Oct. 4.—Capture of Blanc Mont and other positions in the Champagne sector was reported today by Gen. Pershing in his communique for Thursday, announcing further gains by the American forces fighting with the French.

### 3,000 PRISONERS BAGGED BY BRITISH IN DRIVE

CAVALRY ABLY SUPPORTED BY "WHIPPET" TANKS. Last Formidable System of Defense on Hindenburg Chain Wiped Out.

With the British Army on the St. Quentin-Cambrai Front, Oct. 3.—(Night).—British cavalry, followed by "whippet" tanks, were reported tonight to have been seen in Fresnoy-le-Grand, over four miles northeast of Sequehart, which the British captured from the Germans in hard fighting northeast of St. Quentin during the day.

More than 3,000 prisoners from more than forty German regiments were taken in the day's fighting, it was estimated tonight. Forty battalions from ten different German divisions were identified.

The British are now well south of Sequehart and are reported to have captured Mont Brehat, Ramlcourt, Waincourt, Prospect hill, Gouy and Le Catelet.

Clean Up Beaurivore Line. By dawn on Friday morning the British Fourth army has wiped out the last formidable German system of defense in the Hindenburg chain of fortifications.

The British hold the mastery of the air, and the sky was filled with British planes during the day.

It was reported that cavalry had gone forward so far in advance of the infantry that the horsemen were operating in open country, comparatively unobstructed by trenches.

"Whippet" tanks are following, past the last of the Hindenburg line, so far as air observers could judge, the British cavalry was only opposed by a thin line of infantry.

Break Hindenburg Defense. British forces broke through the entire Hindenburg defense system in the neighborhood of Fresnoy today. As soon as the break had been made cavalry forces swept through, being followed closely by "whippet" tanks and armored cars. According to reports which are considered reliable, the system of Fresnoy itself was taken soon afterward.

Allied airplanes which have been flying low over the country in the rear of the Hindenburg line report that there are only one or two things held and hurriedly built trench lines in front of the advancing British.

This is a perfect cavalry country, and with this force free behind the enemy's lines the entire German positions north and south of St. Quentin are gravely menaced.

After cavalry and tanks had dashed into the open country behind the Hindenburg line, infantry followed closely, machine gunners poured through the break. This force is taking positions, and the German who have held their lines in the defensive system are in danger of being cut off.

Full Flight. The enemy appears to be in full flight north of the break in the line. Allied patrols have penetrated further into Cambrai, from which the Germans seem to be withdrawing.

There was fighting of the most desperate character before the last line of the system was shattered. The attack, which had not been in the earlier fighting here were poured into the battle. The British hit a strong enemy position, was taken by storm.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS. City Board No. 1 Proceeds Rapidly with Medical Examination. City board No. 1 is proceeding with the physical examination of registrants with good results. Dr. Fred B. Stepp, medical member of the board, assisted by Drs. J. G. and M. A. Maclellan, were busy all day Friday making examination of class I men who have already filled out their questionnaires.

Other registrants are examined Thursday, and a large number of these were placed in group A.

### BRITISH PURSUE HUN EAST OF LENS

Reaching Railway — Progress Also Made Between Oppy and Mericourt.

### FLAME-UP NEAR CAMBRAI

Strong German Counter Attack Beaten Off at Gouy, Le Catelet and Sequehart.

London, Oct. 4.—(4 p.m.)—The British on the Flanders front are now only six miles from Lille.

The Germans may be forced to evacuate the city, though it is considered improbable that this will be done immediately.

The Germans are having the greatest difficulty in making up the losses in artillery that they have suffered in the allied drives. (Lille is one of the most important German bases in Northern France.)

Pursue Retreating Hun. London, Oct. 4.—British forces pursuing the retreating Germans in the Lens region have reached the railway east of Lens, Field Marshal Haig announced in his official statement today.

To the southeast the British have made progress between Oppy and Mericourt.

The point of the British wedge in the region north of St. Quentin had been pushed at the end of yesterday's fighting to the high ground a mile northeast of Sequehart. The British are holding this ground, having repulsed a counter attack.

Four Thousand Captured. (11:20 a.m.)—Local fighting which resulted to the advantage of the British flamed up on the southern outskirts of Cambrai during the night, the war office announced today.

The British also had the best of it in fighting southwest of Beaurivore, where Australians smashed the Flanders line in hard fighting yesterday.

Four thousand German prisoners were taken in the fighting north of St. Quentin on Thursday.

The Germans made strong counter attacks in an effort to recapture Gouy, Le Catelet and Sequehart, but all were beaten off.

All of the high ground northeast of Sequehart (where the British made a successful attack on an eight-mile front on Thursday) is now firmly held by the British.

Forced Crossing Scheldt Canal. At Le Catelet, where the German counter attack, crossing of the Scheldt canal were forced by English and Irish battalions yesterday.

The new British line is now less than seven miles from the great German base at Lille.

Fresh progress has been made by the British northeast of Epigny and north of the Scarpe and the railway east of Lens has been reached.

The general line now runs through Vendin, Le Vieil, Wingles, Berciaux, Fournes, Weppes and Souppes.

OUR TROOPS DEFIED HEAVIEST BARRAGE Violent Attack of Enemy Only Spurred Doughboys to Victory. (By Lincoln Eyre.) With the American Forces in France — (Copyright, N. Y. World.)—Plunged back beyond his last prepared lines of defense and forced to fight in the open, the enemy since Friday has sought to gain our advance on the Argonne front with every means at his disposal.